

In the Claims:

1. A method for providing critical data in a hard drive, comprising:
 - detecting a critical event;
 - retrieving critical data likely to be requested;
 - receiving a data request from a host device; and
 - providing the critical data in response to the request.
2. The method of 1 wherein the critical event is power-on of the hard drive.
3. The method of 2 wherein retrieving critical data includes:
 - retrieving data associated with host boot-up.
4. The method of 1 wherein retrieving critical data includes:
 - accessing a critical data location information from FLASH; and
 - retrieving the critical data, the location of the critical data on the hard drive derived from the critical data location information.
5. The method of 1 further comprising:
 - identifying the critical data likely to be requested.
6. The method of 5, wherein identifying the critical data further includes:
 - recording past data requests associated with past occurrences of the critical event; and
 - identifying the critical data from the past data requests.

7. The method of 6 wherein identifying the critical data from the past data requests includes:
 - identifying the critical data to be a data requested in the most recent past data request associated with a similar critical event.
8. The method of 6 wherein identifying the critical data from the past data requests includes:
 - identifying the critical data to be a data most often requested in the past data requests associated with a similar critical event.
9. The method of 5, wherein identifying the critical data further includes:
 - receiving a vendor unique command from the host device; and
 - identifying the critical data to be data specified in the vendor unique command.